Social Psychology

Class code
PSYCH-UA 9032 – 001

Instructor Details
Dr. Tim Marsh
tam6@nyu.edu
Consultations by Appointment
Please allow at least 24 hours for your instructor to respond to your emails.

Class Details
Spring 2018

Social Psychology

Tuesday 3:30 – 6:30pm
30 January to 15 May
Room 302
NYU Sydney Academic Centre

Prerequisites
PSYCH-UA 9001 Introduction to Psychology

Class Description
This course advances the understanding of major principles and findings of social psychology. This course will specifically discuss four main areas: (1) the science of social psychology; (2) the individual within the social world; (3) the impact individuals have on another individual or group; and (4) social relationships.

The course will be in lecture format, but class discussion and participation is expected. Therefore, preparation prior to each class is necessary.

Desired Outcomes
By the end of the course, students should be able to:
1. Critically understand the major methods of research in social psychology
2. Describe, explain and evaluate research studies examining core areas of social psychology
3. Recognise and evaluate social, cultural, spiritual and other types of diversity
4. Apply psychological concepts, theories and research findings to solve problems in everyday life and in society
Course grades are based on class participation (10%), 1 midterm paper (20%), 1 oral presentation (10%), 2 exams (20% each) and a final paper (20%).

EXAMS: Tue 27 March (during class in Week 9) during the first half of class, and Tue 15 May from 12:00 – 2:00pm (Exam Week). All exams will consist of multiple-choice, true and false, and short answer questions.

PAPER 1: Critique of the literature Due by 3:30pm, Tue 27 February (Week 5)
For this paper, you will choose a topic within social psychology from a set of options given to you by your instructor and review some of the most recent literature. You should use at least 3 sources (research articles). Your paper should identify a prevailing research question, review the major recent research findings, and identify some strengths and weaknesses of research in this field. This should not just simply be a summary of each study, but rather an overall review of how the selected studies contribute to the common topic – what are the overall ideas/findings/methods that define the inquiry?

Your sources should be research articles from peer-reviewed journals (accessed through the university library portal), not websites or information from unreliable sources such as Wikipedia.

Proof read before submitting your papers. It should be free of spelling or grammatical errors. Your paper should be clear, concise and organized. Papers should be no more than 3 pages double-spaced typed pages of text, excluding title page and references. Use 12-point font in Times New Roman. Use 1-inch margins on top, bottom and sides of each page. Papers that do not follow these criteria will not be read or graded.

ORAL PRESENTATION: Social processes in everyday life (Presented on 10 and 17 April, Week 11 and 12)
These will be completed in small groups of approximately 3 students.
Select a newspaper article (print or digital) reporting on a social interaction between individuals and/or groups to present on.
You will need to (1) briefly present and summarize this reported social interaction, before (2) identifying and explaining a principle, concept or theory from social psychology that could help to account for the reported interaction. The identified principle, concept or theory does not need to be “the correct” or even a complete explanation of the interaction; you only need to be able to explain its potential involvement. Finally, you are to (3) outline the design of a study that empirically tests your proposed explanation. Your experiment should aim to examine the identified principle (etc.) in a context that is ecologically valid for the social situation.

You will be given a strict 8 minutes to speak followed by a brief question time. You will be able to use power point slides or other visual aids during your presentation, but these should add to, and not simply repeat, what you are saying.
FINAL PAPER: Social psychology within Movies Due by 3:30pm, Tue 1 May (Week 14)
More information about the assignment will be given during Session 8. The final paper will be no more than 5 pages (double spaced, 12-pt font).

Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component will result in failure of the class.

For this course your total numerical score, calculated from the components listed above, is converted to a letter grade without rounding.

Extra Credit: Site policy does not allow grading of work outside of the assignments included in the syllabus. The final grade will only be calculated from the assessment components listed here and no other work, whether additional or substituted, is permitted.

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: Excellent performance showing a thorough knowledge and understanding of the topics of the course; all work includes clear, logical explanations, insight, and original thought and reasoning.

Grade B: Good performance with general knowledge and understanding of the topics; all work includes general analysis and coherent explanations showing some independent reasoning, reading and research.

Grade C: Satisfactory performance with some broad explanation and reasoning; the work will typically demonstrate an understanding of the course on a basic level.

Grade D: Passable performance showing a general and superficial understanding of the course’s topics; work lacks satisfactory insight, analysis or reasoned explanations.

Grade F: Unsatisfactory performance in all assessed criteria. Work is weak, unfinished or unsubmitted.

Grade Conversions

Your total numerical score, calculated from the components listed above, correspond to the following letter grades:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 to 100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>86 to &lt; 90</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>82 to &lt; 86</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>72 to &lt; 82</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>68 to &lt; 72</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>64 to &lt; 68</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>40 to &lt; 45</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>0 to &lt; 40</td>
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| Submission of Work | Assignments (excluding in-class presentations and exams) must be submitted electronically via NYU Classes. It is the student’s responsibility to confirm that the work has been successfully been uploaded. In the unlikely event that a submission to Classes fails, students must immediately submit the work to the Academic Programs Coordinator via email before the original submission deadline accompanied by an explanation of the issue. All in-class presentations and exams must be completed during the scheduled class time. An assessment component is considered completed when the student has met all the terms for that assessment component as outlined by the instructor.

An assessment component completed after the deadline without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100-point scale (for the assignment) for each day the work is late. Work completed beyond five weekdays after the due date without an agreed extension receives a mark of zero, and the student is not entitled to feedback for that piece of work. Because failure to submit or fulfil any required assessment component will result in failure of the course, it is crucial for students to complete every assignment even when it will receive a mark of zero. |
| Plagiarism Policy | The academic standards of New York University apply to all coursework at NYU Sydney. NYU Sydney policies are in accordance with New York University’s plagiarism policy. The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

It is a serious academic offense to use the work of others (written, printed or in any other form) without acknowledgement. Cases of plagiarism are not dealt with by your instructor. They are referred to the Director, who will determine the appropriate penalty (up to and including failure in the course as a whole) taking into account the codes of conduct and academic standards for NYU’s various schools and colleges. |
| Attendance Policy | Study abroad at Global Academic Centres is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centres is mandatory, and unexcused absences will affect students' semester grades. The class roster will be marked at the beginning of class and anyone who arrives after this time will be considered absent. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

For courses that meet once a week, one unexcused absence will be penalised by a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade. For courses that meet two or more times a week, the same penalty will apply to two unexcused absences. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure. |
Faculty cannot excuse an absence. Requests for absences to be excused must be directed to the Academic Programs Coordinator. Students must provide appropriate documentation for their absence. In the case of illness, students must contact the Academic Programs Coordinator on the day of absence. They must provide medical documentation to Academic Programs Coordinator within three days of the absence in order to be medically excused. The note must include a medical judgment indicating that the student was unfit to attend class/work on the specific day or dates of the absence. Faculty will be informed of excused absences by the Academic Programs staff.

### Classroom Expectations

This is a seminar subject and requires the active participation of all students. It also requires engaged discussion, including listening to and respecting other points of view. Your behaviour in class should respect your classmates’ desire to learn. It is important for you to focus your full attention on the class, for the entire class period.

- Arrive to class on time.
- Once you are in class, you are expected to stay until class ends. Leaving to make or take phone calls, to meet with classmates, or to go to an interview, is not acceptable behaviour.
- Phones, digital music players, and any other communications or sound devices are not to be used during class. That means no phone calls, no texting, no social media, no email, and no internet browsing at any time during class.
- Laptop computers and tablets are not to be used during class except in rare instances for specific class-related activity expressly approved by your instructor.
- The only material you should be reading in class is material assigned for that class. Reading anything else, such as newspapers or magazines, or doing work from another class, is not acceptable.
- Class may not be recorded in any fashion – audio, video, or otherwise – without permission in writing from the instructor.

### Diversity, Inclusion and Equity

NYU is committed to building a culture that respects and embraces diversity, inclusion, and equity, believing that these values – in all their facets – are, as President Andrew Hamilton has said, “...not only important to cherish for their own sake, but because they are also vital for advancing knowledge, sparking innovation, and creating sustainable communities.” At NYU Sydney we are committed to creating a learning environment that:

- fosters intellectual inquiry, research, and artistic practices that respectfully and rigorously take account of a wide range of opinions, perspectives, and experiences; and
- promotes an inclusive community in which diversity is valued and every member feels they have a rightful place, is welcome and respected, and is supported in their endeavours.

### Religious Observance

Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include
the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. Students must notify their professor and the Academic Programs Coordinator in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose.

**Provisions to students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in a class are encouraged to contact the Moses Centre for Students with Disabilities at (212) 998-4980 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. For more information, see **Study Away and Disability**.

**Required Texts**

It is a course expectation that you have done the required reading and have prepared sufficiently to discuss them in class.


**Internet Research Guidelines**

Students are strongly encouraged to use ‘Psychinfo’ via the NYU electronic library: [https://home.nyu.edu/cgi-bin/ISng.pl?current_tab=221](https://home.nyu.edu/cgi-bin/ISng.pl?current_tab=221)

The oral presentations and written assignment should be based on journal articles, which makes Psychinfo very important.

**Week 1 An introduction to Social Psychology**

**Tuesday 30 January**

**Topics:**

- Introducing social psychology
- Why social psychology is better than intuition
- Characterizing situations and construal
- Milgram’s Obedience study

**Required Reading:**

Week 2  The Science of Social Psychology  
Tuesday 6 February  

Topics:  
- Research and data collection methods  
- Statistics: comparing groups and looking for associations  
- Critical thinking and alternative explanations  
- The importance of replicating research conceptually and directly.

Required Reading:  

Week 3  The Individual in the Social World  
Tuesday 13 February  

Topics:  
- Self-knowledge and self-esteem  
- Regulating and controlling the self  
- Evaluating and presenting the self  
- Rejection and ostracism

Required Reading:  

Week 4  Understanding Others  
Tuesday 20 February  

Topics:  
- Appearance, dispositions, attributions  
- Errors and biases, culture and attributions  
- Intelligence, culture and achievement

Required Reading:  
Week 5  Social Judgement and Moral Decision Making

Tuesday 27 February

Topics:
- Prior knowledge; reason, intuition, heuristics
- The effect of affect on social judgements
- Moral decision making

Required Reading:

Assignment: Paper 1 due (20%)

Week 6  Attitudes, Behaviour and Rationalization

Tuesday 6 March

Topics:
- Predicting behaviour from attitudes, and vice versa
- Self-perception, broader rationalization

Required Reading:

Note: There's a lot of uncommon statistics in here. Make your best effort to read through the analyses, but focus more on the conceptual elements of the reading.

SPRING BREAK: 12-16 March (Week 7)

Week 8  Influencing Others

Tuesday 20 March

Topics:
- Social influence
- Characterizing, universality, social relations
- Social cognition, mind and body, happiness

Required Reading:
Week 9  Emotion

Tuesday 27 March

Exam 1 (20%): First half of class

Topics:
- Theories of emotions

Required Reading:

Week 10  Persuasion and Advertising

Tuesday 3 April

Topics:
- Basics, functions, attitude change
- The media, resistance to persuasion

Required Reading:

Note: Don’t worry too much about understanding the technical details under the “Data acquisition and analysis” subheading.

Week 11  Relationships (Part 1)

Tuesday 10 April

Assignment: Oral Presentations Part 1 (total 10%): First half of class

Topics:
- Proximity, similarity
- Physical attractiveness, integration

Required Reading:
**Week 12  Relationships (Part 2)**

**Tuesday 17 April**

**Assignment: Oral Presentations Part 2 (total 10%): First half of class**

**Topics:**
- Importance, origins, ways
- Romantic relationships
- Relationship maintenance
- Relationship breakdown

**Required Reading:**

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**Week 13  Stereotyping, Stigma, Prejudice and Discrimination**

**Tuesday 24 April**

**Topics:**
- Intergroup bias, economic and motivational perspectives
- Cognitive perspective, being stigmatized, reducing stereotyping

**Required Reading:**

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**Week 14  Help, Hurting and Cooperation**

**Tuesday 1 May**

**Topics:**
- Altruism, cooperation
- Aggression and Free riding

**Required Reading:**

**Assignment: Final Paper Due (20%)**
Week 15  Groups

Tuesday 8 May

Topics:

- Social facilitation and de-individuation
- Self-awareness and individuation, group decision making

Required Reading:


Final Exam (20%): Tuesday 15 May 12:00 – 2:00pm

Your Instructor

Dr Tim Marsh (PhD, Macquarie University) completed his PhD in Psychology in 2013. His primary research interests concern the evolved cognitive mechanisms underpinning modern intergroup prejudice, and their role in general moral psychology.

He has taught and assessed both undergraduate and postgraduate psychology subjects, including introductory, social, biological and personality psychology, in addition to research methods, statistics and thesis preparation. He has also taught in interdisciplinary topics, specifically concerning the application of psychology in various health professions. His current research interests include exploring the role outgroup bias and discrete coalition cues play in adaptively negotiating group decision tasks. He is also collaborating with researchers in the field of education, to design interventions intended to help educators understand and negotiate the conflicting moral values in their students.